

In this issue...

[Dear Colleagues](#)

[Leadership Excellence Academy](#)

[PLATO use](#)

[Important LiteracyLink information](#)

[Important changes to BEST scores](#)

[Adult education research to practice](#)

[Program director position available](#)

[KYVAE technical support](#)

[KEC processing](#)

[Apply for Byrd Scholarships now](#)

[Early childhood education scholarship](#)

[2007 high GED score](#)

[New GED test series](#)

[Judges GED fact sheet](#)

["No Pass-No Drive" regulation](#)

[Mailing addresses for GEDs](#)

[GED Connection in Spanish](#)

[Free citizenship webinar](#)

[Address adult literacy to improve children's literacy](#)

[ProLiteracy seeks award nominations](#)

[Mileage reimbursement rate](#)

[Valuable links](#)

Dear Colleagues

As focused as everyone has been on completing the RFP process to award Adult Education state and federal funds for 2008-2009, we have other news to share and many other important activities underway that will benefit our students.

Next year's budget is shaping up: the state appropriation of \$23,526,000 is finalized and KYAE recently received word that the federal grant award for 2008-2009 will be \$8,610,533. The state appropriation for 2008-09 will be 6 percent less than the current year as a result of the enacted budget. The federal amount is down by \$142,651. The federal award is reduced due to a 1.747 percent across-the-board rescission required by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008*.

We have also received notice that, unfortunately, Kentucky Adult Education did not meet its federal performance indicators in 2006-2007. Two of the 15 targets set for us by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), were met, but performance lagged behind on the rest. WIA Title I and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act programs met their targets. I am sure that we all have the goal and commitment to become a national performance leader after this year of transition to the quality-based New Framework for Adult Education. There is already an increase in the number of GEDs this year!

Even during times of financial difficulty, adult education continues to make great progress. Providers and state staff are working together on initiatives to support quality student outcomes in the coming year:

- The Teacher Quality Work Group is almost ready to take its work to the field for input.
- The Professional Development Work Group is focusing on student learning in math, reading and writing, as well as learning disabilities, quality instruction and program leadership.
- The development of Math content standards for Level 4 is nearing completion after the input of programs at

regional meetings. Discussion is underway with the Northern Kentucky University Center for Mathematics on how the Center and KYAE can work together.

- The national trainer on the NRS system is looking at our use of data in conducting needs analyses and using data for system improvement as possible models for other states.
- And finally, Kentucky Adult Education has been accepted to participate in an exciting national Leadership Excellence Academy for program directors. An article on this great opportunity is in this newsletter.

And finally, as you know, Brad Cowgill has resigned as Interim President of the Council on Postsecondary Education. A national search for his replacement is starting. Kentucky Adult Education greatly appreciated his support of our programs and of our budget request during the legislative session. He strongly admired the work you all do and felt adult education students were essential to making educational progress in the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hindman Hawker

Leadership Excellence Academy

KYAE has been accepted into the Leadership Excellence Academy, which will provide enriching program leadership professional development to as many as 40 local program directors in Kentucky. In the near future, KYAE will provide details about how local program directors can apply to be part of this exciting new opportunity.

The Academy, a joint initiative of the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium (NAEPDC) and ProLiteracy America, is a two-year professional development opportunity that will allow program directors to explore, adapt and apply leadership concepts and skills specific to their adult education program. Participants can earn the nationally recognized certification as a Certified Manager in Program Improvement (CMPI) as well as nine hours of graduate credit in educational administration.

Watch your e-mail for KYAE application information. General information is available on the [NAEPDC Web site](#).

PLATO use

The Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC) is updating the PLATO enrollment process to a student inquiry procedure. This change **will not affect** KYAE's registration process for online products accessed through KYVAE. The process remains the same when enrolling adult education students:

- All students should be tested to verify eligibility for adult education services.
- Students must be enrolled in AERIN as adult education students.
- Students must register for an online product through KYVAE.
- Online curriculum product use is tracked and entered in AERIN.
- Adult education instructors must document any student educational level completions.

continued on page 3

- Students are able to use online curriculum products for the duration of their enrollment in AERIN.
- The KYAE fiscal year ends on June 30. For reporting purposes, all students are separated from AERIN and will be completed in KYVAE. During the short period when data is being finalized, students will not have access to KYVAE online products.

If a KCTCS instructor refers a student to your program, the same procedure should be followed. Students can be dually enrolled by local KYAE programs and KCTCS. Adult education programs may count the hours students spend working in the center and completing online assignments.

Adult education instructors need to make student assignments and set up access to the online curriculum products. Adult education instructors should work with the KCTCS faculty to insure students are working on appropriate assignments that meet their academic needs. Reports documenting student progress can be generated by adult educators and provided to KCTCS faculty upon request.

Important information about LiteracyLink

The LiteracyLink online management system will not be available through KYVAE after July 1, 2008. Upcoming KYVAE programming changes will not allow LiteracyLink to work through our portal. However, LiteracyLink will still be available next year to all programs through www.pbs.org/literacy. Instructors who want to use LiteracyLink should contact Erika Larson at (502) 573-5114, ext. 104 or Erika.Larson@ky.gov. For interested instructors, KYAE will need to create new accounts linked to the www.pbs.org/literacy site.

All current LiteracyLink students will be able to complete their work through KYVAE. Once these students are separated in AERIN, they will be completed and disenrolled from LiteracyLink.

Important changes to BEST scores

The Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) has informed KYAE that score ranges for the BEST Literacy assessment have been realigned to educational levels within the National Reporting System (NRS).

Beginning July 1, 2008, these changes will affect the NRS level of students enrolled and post-tested on the BEST assessment. Please [click here](#) to read information from CAL about this issue. Effective July 1, 2008, KYAE will revise its assessment policy and AERIN based on these changes.

Adult education research to practice

Adult education professionals can receive a new resource from Rhode Island's Office of Adult Education and GED – a template that allows users to move adult education research to practice. The template can be used to implement almost any adult education research using a series of guiding questions the state developed. It provides a case study of research implementation to determine how long adults persist in adult education, including examples of specific activities on how to use research and share it, such as organizing study circles and creating or changing policies and programs. The use of research in adult education practice appeared to increase the average hours of instruction students received in Rhode Island. Contact [Johan Uvin](#) for more information.

Program director position available

Hopkinsville Community College is looking for a new program director for the Christian County Adult Education program. More information is available on the college's [Web site](#). The deadline for applying is **May 23**. Bev Thomson, the current program director, plans to retire June 30.

KYVAE technical support

The Kentucky Virtual Campus (KYVC) has consolidated its technical helpdesk and call center under one number - (877) 740-4357. To reach the call center for assistance with PLATO, WIN and Literacy Link, please press '2' or stay on the line. The call center is able to assist both students and instructors with KYVAE problems.

Please discontinue using (866) 606-1725 as this number is no longer associated with the KYVC call center.

KEC processing

The KEC signing process has been worked out with the Office of the Governor. KEC processing and mailing to programs will begin by mid-May. If you submitted an application and have not received your certificate(s) by May 20, please contact KCTCS for further information. Suzanne Parker at (859) 256-3372 will be able to provide an estimated mailing date for your certificates.

Apply for Byrd Scholarships now

Kentuckians who have taken the GED since July 2007 and achieved at least a 2700 composite score may apply for a Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship before June 30, 2008. The scholarships, up to \$1,500 a year for four years of college, are administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

GED graduates may apply through Zip Access at www.kheaa.com. To apply, sign in to Zip Access with your user ID and password. Those who have not used Zip Access before should register to create a user ID and password. Interested GED graduates should apply as soon as possible because adult education counselors must certify applicants for consideration by June 30.

The Byrd Scholarship is named for longtime U.S. Sen. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, who authored the legislation establishing the program in 1985. Kentucky receives funding to award 90 scholarships to high school seniors and GED graduates each year, 15 from each of the state's six congressional districts. GED graduates are chosen by an independent panel, based on GED score and adult education counselor recommendation. For more information about Byrd Scholarships, call Beth Lane at (800) 928-8926, ext. 6-7229.

Early childhood education scholarship

Kentucky's childcare workers and trainers who want more college instruction may be eligible for the Early Childhood Development Scholarship, administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

The scholarships are available to people who work at least 20 hours each week at a participating early childhood facility or provide training in early childhood development at least 12 times per year for an approved organization. Kentuckians employed as a preschool associate teacher in a state-funded preschool program are also eligible.

Applicants must be working toward an approved credential, an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree in early childhood education. The scholarship will pay the amount of tuition charged by the college, up to \$1,800 per year. Students may not take more than nine hours a semester.

To apply, students must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and an Early Childhood Development Scholarship application. The FAFSA is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The scholarship application is available at www.kheaa.com. To complete the scholarship application, students must register for a Zip Access account. After registering, they should sign in to Zip Access and select account access and then select apply online.

To learn how to plan and prepare for higher education, visit www.GoHigherKY.org. For more information about Kentucky scholarships and grants, visit www.kheaa.com; write KHEAA, P.O. Box 798, Frankfort, KY 40602-0798; or call (800) 928-8926, extension 7381. For more information about student loans, visit www.studentloanpeople.com; write The Student Loan People, P.O. Box 24328, Louisville, KY 40224-0328; or call (888) 678-4625.

2007 high GED score

Sian Mason of Lexington had the highest 2007 GED score with a total of 3760. Sian, who was 17 when she took the GED tests, was born in New Hampshire and moved to Kentucky as a toddler. She enjoys working with the 4H Camp and is active in the Cincinnati and Chicago music scenes. Sian is a freshman at Columbia College of Chicago majoring in music business. She hopes to work in music production after graduation.

New GED test series

The GED Testing Service™ (GEDTS) has announced that the next series of the GED Tests will be implemented as of January 1, 2012. GEDTS had originally planned to release the new series of GED Tests in January 2011.

GEDTS has provided the following reasons for the delay:

- GEDTS is currently searching for a new Director of Test Development and feels it is essential to have that person on board to provide leadership for the launch of the new test series.
- GEDTS is continuing to explore the feasibility of transitioning to a computer-based delivery model to replace and/or to augment the existing paper-pencil delivery model. Delaying the launch of the new series of GED Tests until 2012 will allow GEDTS more time to make this

continued on page 6

decision. While GEDTS is not, as yet, at a decision point about whether or not it will move to a computer-based delivery model, delaying the release of the new series provides the opportunity that such a transition could be coordinated with the release of the 2012 Series GED Tests.

In addition, GEDTS is beginning work on a campaign to guide marketing efforts for the new series release. Staff will work with designers to produce templates (common visuals, style, messages and taglines) for print ads, posters and other media as appropriate. These templates will be utilized by GEDTS and will also be widely available for use by jurisdictions.

For more information, [click here](#) for a GEDTS Web site.

Judges GED fact sheet

KYAE recently sent a letter and fact sheet regarding the alternative sentencing statute to Kentucky judges as a reminder of GED eligibility criteria and KYAE services. KRS 533.200 provides that a person convicted of a misdemeanor, violation or felony who has not received a graduation certificate from high school or has not passed the GED may be sentenced to attend and successfully complete a program designed to improve reading, living and employment skills.

KYAE urges providers to talk with their local judges and courthouse staff to make them aware of the statute as well as GED eligibility requirements so that judges do not use alternative sentencing for those who are not GED-eligible. The fact sheet is posted on the [KYAE Web site](#).

“No Pass-No Drive” regulation

Kentucky’s No Pass–No Drive regulation is meant to discourage dropouts and to encourage academic success. Under the regulation, if a student drops out of school or is declared academically deficient, the school district notifies the Transportation Cabinet, and the student’s license is revoked. The license may be reinstated if the student enrolls in school and completes the education requirements. The regulation is silent on whether earning a GED satisfies completing the education requirements. According to the Kentucky Department of Education, a student may demonstrate completion of the education requirement by presenting proof of a GED to the Circuit Court Clerk.

Mailing addresses for GEDs

Please note that GED diploma packets are mailed to the address in the GED database, which is the address entered when the student creates an account on GED123.org. If the student’s address changes before testing, the examiner has to be informed at time of testing. Changing the address on the KYAE-6 form does not change the official mailing address.

GED Connection in Spanish

KET’s *GED Connection* series has been translated into Spanish and is now airing Wednesdays at 1 p.m. ET on KET1. This is the complete *GED Connection en Español*. For the broadcast schedule, click [here](#). These programs correlate to the KET GED Connection workbooks, in English, being used in adult education centers in Kentucky.

Free citizenship webinar

Learn about the changes being made to the citizenship test this fall in a free webinar presented by ProLiteracy's publishing division, New Readers Press (NRP). "Passing the New Citizenship Test" is open to anyone who teaches citizenship or is interested in knowing more about the changes being made to the test. The hour-long webinar will be given at 3 p.m. ET on the following dates: June 6, June 20 and July 25.

Lynne Weintraub, author of the new and revised citizenship materials that NRP is publishing in September, is the presenter. Attendees will have a chance to ask questions at the end.

To register, send an e-mail to citizenship@proliteracy.org. Include your name and e-mail address. You only need to register one person for each computer you will use to watch the webcast – even if several people will be watching together. You will receive a confirmation and detailed instructions for how to access the webinar. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Ascenzo at nascenzo@proliteracy.org.

Address adult literacy to improve children's literacy

According to David C. Harvey, president and CEO of ProLiteracy, the federal Reading First program has failed because "it does not take into account the literacy skills of parents."

"Learning to read doesn't take place in the classroom alone. It begins before a child enters school and continues at the end of the school day when parents and caregivers reinforce the reading and comprehension skills developed in school," said Harvey. "And in many cases, the children who need special reading programs have parents who are struggling readers."

A report recently issued by the Department of Education determined that Reading First did not help low income students in grades one, two, and three better understand what they had read as it was expected to do when it was created as part of the 2002 No Child Left Behind law. Several lawmakers and federal investigators claimed the failure was due in part to reports of potential conflict of interest and management problems in the program.

Harvey, however, pointed to research that shows children of parents who are poor readers are far more likely to become poor readers than children whose parents have strong literacy skills. The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy, also conducted on behalf of the Department of Education, estimated that 30 million adults in the U.S. can barely read and write and that many of those individuals fall into the low income category.

"This is a perfect example of what ProLiteracy has said about No Child Left Behind all along – that pouring all our efforts and financial resources into the K-12 public school system isn't enough to address this country's literacy issue," Harvey said. "There's an intergenerational aspect of literacy and if we don't help the parents, we won't be doing enough to help children."

Adult basic education and literacy programs and Even Start, which offers literacy programs for low income parents and their children, have been rated "effective" by the Office of Budget and Management using its Program Assessment Rating Tool. It is the highest rating a program can achieve and indicates that the program has set ambitious goals, achieves results, is well-managed, and improves efficiency.

continued on page 8

“We’re not against funding literacy programs for children, it’s just that ProLiteracy’s more than 70 years in the adult literacy field and our more than 3,500 individual and organizational members know that these programs won’t be as effective if the parents have been left behind,” he said.

ProLiteracy is a nonprofit international literacy organization based in Syracuse, New York. Formed by the 2002 merger of Laubach Literacy International and Literacy Volunteers of America Inc., ProLiteracy is the oldest and largest nongovernmental literacy organization in the world. It achieves its mission, championing the life-changing benefits of literacy for adults and their families, by sponsoring educational programs that help adults and their families acquire the literacy practices and skills they need to function more effectively in their daily lives. For more information, please go to www.proliteracy.org

ProLiteracy seeks award nominations

ProLiteracy is accepting nominations for awards recognizing the accomplishments and outstanding efforts of those who are making a difference in the field of adult literacy. Criteria and forms are available at www.proliteracy.org/conference.

Nominate individuals for the Student Excellence Award and the Excellence in Individual Achievement category. Local affiliates or state organization affiliates can be nominated for an outstanding innovation that has had a positive effect on a local, state or regional program. This award is called the ProLiteracy Award for U.S. Program Innovation.

All nominations must be postmarked by June 15, 2008. Nominations postmarked after that date will not be accepted. These awards will be presented at the ProLiteracy conference in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 1-4, 2008.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Bonney at sbonney@proliteracy.org or (315) 422-9121, ext. 335.

Mileage reimbursement rate

The state mileage reimbursement rate changed to 45 cents per mile as of April 1. For more information, [click here](#).

Valuable links

KET’s April 2008 [Adult Learning Quarterly](#) features an excellent article about learning disabilities written by Dr. Laura Weisel, who created “PowerPath to Education and Employment,” a diagnostic screening and intervention system. Read about three students who overcame their learning disabilities and tips for helping students with similar issues.

MDRC, an organization dedicated to research to enhance public policy, has released a [report](#) on its Opening Doors demonstration project, *A Good Start: Two-Year Effects of a Freshmen Learning Community Program at Kingsborough Community College*. The paper examines the effectiveness of learning communities to keep at-risk students engaged in the learning process.